

# ANNUAL ACTIVITY REPORT 2009-10



# SACAL

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## **ANNUAL ACTIVITY REPORT 2009-10**

A Time Line of Important Activities Undertaken by The Society.

- |   |         |
|---|---------|
| 1. Strengthening of Civil Society Organisations | 2001-02 |
| 2. Secure Livelihoods                           | 2005-06 |
| 3. Global Gift Programme                        | 2007-08 |
| 4. System of rice intensification               | 2008-09 |
| 5. Rain Water Management                        | 2008-09 |
| 6. Orissa Community Tank Management             | 2008-09 |
| 7. Diversion based irrigation system            | 2008-09 |
| 8. National Environment Programme               | 2009-10 |
| 9. Tuberculosis eradication programme           | 2009-10 |

## **SOCIAL ACTION FOR COMMUNITY ALTERNATIVE LEARNING (SACAL) 1999-2000 to 2009-2010**

### **A Decade's Experience In The Field Of Rural Development.**

Social Action For Community Alternative Learning (SACAL) was registered as a Society under the Societies Registration Act 1860 on the 31<sup>st</sup> August 1999. It is a secular, Non-partisan, rural development organization, based at Neelachal Nagar, Berhampur in the district of Ganjam, Orissa. This is the tenth year of its functioning.

The Society was formed by a group of educated youth who had long experience in the field of social work in tribal areas. It is devoted to the promotion and implementation of policies and programmes and rendering such services as may be deemed fit for enhancing the quality of life of the rural community in general and ensuring food security in particular. Its primary concern is with the whole spectrum of the people's development. It aims at promoting a sustainable development process to achieve the desired objectives.

The target groups include STs, SCs and those coming under the BPL group, many of whom are marginal farmers and landless labourers. We advocate extending knowledge about their conditions and the means to improve them. We provide examples to show that resources strategically applied on convergent services for the poor are the wisest investments for the future. We may mention here that we do not intend to promote any exclusive development policy or model. We respect the right of the local community to determine its own design of development. It's the community that prepares the micro plan for the village development. All development work undertaken in villages with Government grant are as per the demands made in the micro plan prepared by the villagers.

Similarly, while choosing the activities and programmes for implementation in a village, the villagers prioritize their needs and come to a decision which ultimately prevails. The important on-going activities undertaken by the Society have already been mentioned in this report under the caption "A Time Line of Activities Undertaken" details of which can be seen at the pages that follow.

We are working in predominantly tribal areas. The tribal people are rigid in the inner folds of their thought process. A tribal mother would put more faith in the healing properties of witchcraft and sorcery rather than the immunizing potential of a vaccine. A tribal farmer would put more faith in rituals that propitiate the gods in the hope of a good harvest, all due to lack of awareness. Lack of awareness leads to exploitation to which people in remote tribal areas are vulnerable. So, we carried on awareness and motivation activities with the help of VDCs and PDCs.

We started work in twelve villages under three Gram Panchayats of Mohana Block in Gajpati district in 1999. Now we are working with 3889 families in 91 villages coming under 16 GPs of two Blocks in two districts- Gajpati and Ganjam. The reason as to how we could be able to reach out to so many villages in just 10 years is that our staff worked as dedicated social workers. They became one with the members of the village community and won their hearts which led to enhance our organisation's image. The people never thought that we are outsiders and never doubted our integrity.

Strengthening of CSOs was our primary task. For every village, we advocated and promoted formation of a VDC and every Panchayat a PDC because we believed without strong CBOs it would be difficult to achieve any thing substantial. We strengthened these organization. The outcome was found to be overwhelming.

A decade has gone by. We have made some achievements in the field of development details of which are given in the report. If we have been able to achieve some thing in our mission, the credit should first go to the CSOs for their active participation and cooperation, though the dedicated services of our staff members cannot be undervalued.

We have been partially successful in our endeavour. We sincerely hope that by our dedicated service coupled with the active participation of the village communities, we could be able to protect our clients from marginalization and poverty and accomplish the objectives.

Nagendra K. Nandi  
Secretary.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

It gives me much pleasure to present to you the tenth Annual Activity Report 2009-10. The report contains information as to what activities and programmes the organization implemented for the development of its clients during the year, its successes and failures, if any, the problems and difficulties it encountered etc. The organization is obliged to let all its stakeholders know its performances, achievements and failures once a year through its Annual Activity Report. Accordingly, this report for the year 2009-10 has been brought out.

SACAL has been working in two CD Blocks, namely, Mohana and Patrapur in Gajapati and Ganjam districts respectively. We have reached out to 3889 families residing in 91 villages. Details are as follows:

Block	No.of villages	No.of households	Population			
			SC	ST	General	Total
1.Mohana	84	2840	1025	11818	518	13361
2.Patrapur	7	1049	488	nil	4219	4707
Total	91	3889	1513	11818	4737	18068

The people with whom the organization works are STs, SCs and OBCs. Most of the families live below the BP Line. The sub-castes of the STs are Kandh and Soura. Many of families are marginal farmers or landless labourers. They live in sub-human conditions. Most of them are illiterate. So much so that they are not aware of the welfare schemes being implemented by the Government for their development, let alone availing themselves of the benefits of the schemes. They have no access to the benefits what is rightfully theirs. Added to it is the superstition of witch craft and sorcery that has taken deep root in their minds and much effort had to be made to allay the wrong belief from their minds.

The people with whom we are working for development are victims of abject poverty. What is important and essential for them at this stage is food security first and opportunities for secure livelihood next.

Bearing this in mind, the organization has concentrated its efforts, mainly, on augmentation of food stuffs through improved practices of sustainable agriculture and activities allied thereto, viz, irrigation facilities, provision of inputs, vegetable cultivation plantation, natural resources management etc.

Our approach to achieving the objectives is very simple. We equip the local community with knowledge about their own situations and its causes and with skills to cope their lives because we believe that is the crucial step towards change. This is the key to making group action feasible. We are here to promote the process and we hope that through our determined efforts the dream will come true sooner than later.

Nagendra K Nandi.  
Secretary

## **FROM THE SECRETARY'S PEN**

### **FOOD SECURITY**

Scarcity of food in India is not a new phenomenon. It was there during British Rule; today also it is there. The irony of fate is that sixty three years after attaining independence, we hear of starvation deaths in free India which is primarily an agricultural country. It's because the food security policy of the Government is poorly managed. Admittedly, food security has been a major development objective since the start of planning. But why then people don't get food and we hear of starvation deaths ? Who to blame for the deteriorating levels of the people and the growing conditions of hunger, starvation and poverty ?

Let's think of our own State Orissa. According to a UNO study, in a list of 88 countries showing hunger index, India ranks 66<sup>th</sup>. So far as food shortage is concerned, Orissa, along with some other States, finds place in alarming category.

The State has the dubious distinction of being described as a backward State in terms of per capita income, literacy and any of the human development indices. It has also gained the most negative publicity for starvation deaths. Every year there is a hue and cry over starvation deaths in the Adivasi-dominated districts of Orissa. Whenever incidents of starvation deaths are reported, Orissa's Adivasis are in the news. Year after year, the reports of starvation deaths appear in the newspapers.

In most cases, the government of the day tries to cover up the issue by saying the deaths were due to food poisoning caused by eating mango kernels or some other traditional food or drink. It may be true that the Adivasis, who live in very primitive conditions, may not be able to maintain high standards of hygiene, but the question is why they are driven to eat mango kernel.

There is need to have a close look at the general economic condition of the Adivasis. The rule of ad-hocism and and piece meal efforts will not help. Long term programmes are needed for solving the problem of their endemic poverty.

Nagendra K Nandi  
Secretary

## **1. STRENGTHENING OF CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS/ PEOPLE'S ORGANISATIONS.**

For growth and development, the rural communities have to have their own organizations- civil society organizations/people's organizations-to take care of the development of their population. Such organisations are already in place in each of the villages where we are working and their performances are found to be very heartening. But they need to be strengthened further through enlightened prompting, awakened awareness and spirited group action to play their role more effectively.

We believe that community led local planning, political space for the organized poor, community-government partnership, efficient functioning of women's groups, public and voluntary agencies interacting with the community, annual plans at the local level prepared, managed and monitored by ordinary women and men, can do miracles in achieving development goals. The strategies, structures and processes, so essential to establish viable service, which have hitherto missed could be in place. If this developmental common sense finally takes off, it could mark the beginning of change on a social scale. With this end in view, we have taken up strengthening of CSOs as one of our major activities.

We have a two-tier system in the formation and strengthening of people's CSOs, namely, 1. Village Development Committee and 2. Panchayat Development Committee.

VDC: Each of the villages where we work in has a committee known as the Village Development Committee, consisting of 5-7 members, depending on the number of households in the village. The members are elected, democratically, by the villagers. The office bearers, namely, the president and the secretary are elected by the members of the committee. Seats have been reserved for SC, ST and women members. The committee members hold office for a period of two years.

VDC is the apex body at the village level. Besides the VDC, there are sectoral bodies like the village education committee, Van Sanrakshyana samiti, krushak sangha, SHGs etc to look after the development of education, agriculture, protection of forest wealth and empowerment of women. The VDC coordinates



the activities of sectoral bodies at the village level for their smooth and efficient functioning.

The VDC establishes linkage with institutions like Anganwadi centre, ANM centre, school teachers, Gram Sevak, panchayat members in order that problems relating to health, education, agriculture, nutrition etc are solved at the village level. The VDC also resolves issues relating to family matters and petty quarrels etc.

It is the VDC that brings out the micro plan for the village, shares its contents with the panchayat members for the smooth passage of the plan in the Palli Sabha. It ensures cent percent attendance of villagers in the Palli Sabha and taking part in the discussion. It monitors all on-going activities at the village level including development work taken up in the village with Government grant.

PDC is the apex body at the Panchayat level. It performs more or less the same functions as the VDC but at higher levels like the Panchayat Samiti, the Zilla Parishad, institutions and offices at the block and district levels. It supervises and coordinates all on-going activities undertaken at the panchayat level. It establishes linkage with Block Office, Agriculture Office, PHC, DI of schools, Forest office and so on so that the interest of the whole panchayat is taken care of. Issues relating to NREGS, FRA, PDS, delay in sanction and release of funds, execution of development work, quality of construction work and social security schemes etc are resolved. Further, the PDC intervenes in matters where the VDC finds any problem difficult to be solved at its level. It resolves all inter-village disputes of small causes.

Since these CSOs discharge important responsibilities in their respective jurisdictions, strengthening of these bodies in matters relating to capacity building, personality development, articulation etc need not be overemphasized. These can be achieved by imparting proper training to CSO members, sending them to specific places on organized exposure visits, making them participate in workshops. Action as indicated below was taken to meet the requirements.

### Training and workshop on capacity building, development of leadership and articulation

Sl. No. and date	Participants	Subject matter	Resource Person
1. 11 and 12.5.09	56 SHG members	Capacity Building	Sri S.K.Das
2. 13 and 14,5.09	13 PDC members	Articulation, public speaking	SACAK staff
3. 16 and 17.9.09	29 VDC and PDC members	Organisation of awareness camp	Ms. Gayatri Bisoyi Sri Santosh Gaudo
4. 30.11.09	46 VDC, VEC members, teachers	Regular attendance, stop dropout	Sri Tirupati Patro
5. 8.3.10	293-PDC, VDC and SHG members	Empowerment of women	SACAL staff
6. 18.3.10	54 SHG members	SHG management	Do

### Workshops

Sl. No.	Date	Participants	Subject matter	Resource person
1	21.11.09	PRI, PDC members	Work to wage earners under NREGS	Sri Srinivas Panigrahi
2	25.11.09	VDC, VEC members and teachers	Teachers to be kind to students, no beating, better teaching	Sri Koresh Sethy
3	19.12.09	108-PDC, VEC, SHG members	Rain water management	Sri Banamali Sahu, consultant
4	26.2.10	211-VDC members and villagers	Tribals right on forest land	Sri A. Srinivas Achary
5	19.3.10	66- PDC and VDC members	Do	SACAL staff

## **Exposure Visit**

Rain Water Management system has been successfully implemented in Keonjhar district. We are also implementing the project in Mohana block. This is a new project being implemented in Gajpati district. It was necessary to acquaint our beneficiaries with the nature of work involved in the system. So we sent a team of 26 PDC, VEC members under the leadership of Sri PK Malika, Mohana Block Chairman, on an exposure visit. They saw the project, gathered information about graded bunds, percolation tank etc. They had a dialogue with the beneficiaries there about cultivation of different crops and the increase in the yield.

## **Impact of strengthening CSOs**

The impact of the awareness camps, leadership training camps was noticed sooner rather than later. In April 2009 there were communal riots in Mohana Block resulting in a serious breach of law and order. The PDC Dhadiambo GP organised an awareness camp for maintenance of peace and tranquility. People from all the villages of that Panchayat had attended the camp. The PDC decided that the VDC members should go from village to village as messengers of peace and spread the message of love among the people irrespective of religion. The decision was carried out.

The PDC, Dhadiambo, decided that it had to do a lot more for permanent peace in the area by strengthening communal harmony among the people of different religions. It organized a leadership training camp at Chandragiri in May 2009. Fifty seven members -twenty five men and twenty seven women - had attended the meet.

Besides the core members of Chandiput and Karchabadi had also attended the meet. Mr R.P. Padhi from the Central Board of Workers Education had graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. In his address to the participants he spoke on the importance of unity in diversity with emphasis on communal harmony. He advised the participants to spread the message of love and peace. Another point, the Chief Guest, drove home to the participants, was to tell people not to hate or ill treat people of religions other their own.

a. The participants were greatly impressed by the speech. They resolved that the message of love and peace should be conveyed to the people in the next VDC meetings. True to their word, the VDC members held meetings in their respective villages and conveyed to them the message of love, peace and kindness. They explained at length the importance of communal harmony to the people. The villagers resolved that the VDC should also function as the peace committee and swing to action whenever there was any sort of violence in the village.

b. Chandragiri and other parts of Mohana Block are prone to communal riots and religion related violences. Peace and tranquility are often disturbed by fundamentalists. A discourse on communal harmony was greatly called for to preserve the secular credentials of the country. The event organized was very successful.

c. The PDC members resolved nine disputes of small causes during the year.

d. Here are some other example of major achievements of VDCs

\*.Micro Plans for villages were prepared by VDCs and placed before the Palli Sabha and Gram Sabha. Items of works to be undertaken were priorotised. Depending upon the allotment of funds by the Government to GPs, development works for different villages were approved.

\*. The VDC and the PDC members took up follow-up measures for execution of development work in their villages. With their efforts funds were sanctioned for execution of the approved development work in villages in time.

\*.The following table shows the allocation and release of funds to villages for development work:

Name of village	Name of GP	Amount of grant Rs	Purpose
1. B Raising 2. Ramananju 3. Ghaibali 4. Kaliapata 5. Jalibadi 6. Guduni 7. Dhanupata 8. Jagnathpur	Karchabadi Do Chandiput Do Baghmari Do Dhadiambo Do	Rs 13,00,000 for all 8 villages	Road construction
1. Bahadapada 2. Patalibandha 3. Dungrigaon 4. B Raising 5. Nardiguma 6. Jakarapalli 7. Andiragada	Karchabadi Do Do Do Chandiput Dhadiambo Baghmari	Rs 3,50,000 for 7 ponds in 6 villages	Ponds under NREGP
1 Dhanupata	Dhadiambo	Rs 3,00,000	Construction of a check dam
1 Jagnathpur	Dhadiambo	Rs 20,000	Drinking water supply ( by gravity flow system)

## 2. SECURE LIVELIHOODS

Secure Livelihoods Programme that we have launched in the villages is based on promotion of small scale income generation activities, depending on availability of materials and skills. While individuals are supported in the matter, the focus is on group action. That is why SHGs have been supported to carry on trade of their choice subject to economic viability. The aim is to increase the level of income of the people creating sources of alternative employment. It also aims at encouraging people to save, according to their power to save, as the activities envisage a rise in the level of their income.

Activities since started include goatery, brick making, plantation, bee keeping etc.

Status of secure livelihood programme.

a.

Name of village	Name of GP No. of SHGs	Amount of bank loan received Rs	Purpose	How utilized
	3 Groups	7,50,000	Goatery and Brick making	Goats purchased Brick unit started

The units got bank finance as loan and subsidy from Govt. The organisation's support was by way of capacity building and smooth management of SHGs.

The SHGs were categorized under different grades and special attention was paid to improve the performance of such of the units that were found weak in performance through trainings and workshops.

### **b. Plantation.**

This is a measure to improve the level of food security and to generate supplementary income to reduce poverty. The activity was undertaken in two villages under Chandiput, Dhadiambo and Karchabadi GPs. Mango grafts -700 and cashew saplings -1600 were supplied to the farmers. Mango grafts were supplied to the beneficiaries of Kharidhepa and Ghaibali villages under Chandiput GP and to the beneficiaries of Kandha Adava village under Karchabadi GP. Cashew saplings were supplied to the beneficiaries of Govindpur village of Dhadiambo GP. They planted the grafts and seedlings and are taking care of them.

### **c. Bee-keeping**

Training was given to 8 farmers of B. Raising, Mukti Nagar, Pakalbandha and Khajuripada villages. They were selected by the VDCs. After the training, bee boxes and other necessary equipments were distributed to them. They have started collecting honey.

### **d. Paddy, Ragi and Vegetable cultivation**

Yet another step taken to provide secure livelihood opportunity was promotion of SRI for higher yield of paddy and ragi, also vegetable cultivation at Govindpur and Dhanupanka villages to enhance the level of food security and to earn extra income.

### **e. Establishment of Grain Banks**

In the villages, people generally face the problem of shortage of food in the months from May to July. So much so is the problem, that they borrow money from money lenders at exorbitant rates of interest under the circumstances of can't but. To overcome the painful situation, people in 17 villages of Baghmari, Dhadiambo and Chandipur GPs. have started grain banks. The membership strength is 123. The quantity of total grains collected was 65 (paddy, ragi, maize, suan and ganga etc).

The members of each bank have themselves evolved their own mechanism as to how the grains will be given to the members, at what rate of interest, the mode of repayment etc. The members are women and the banks are managed by themselves. As a gesture of sympathy, the banks allow concession in rate of interest to destitutes, physically disable persons. In exceptional cases grains are supplied as gift.

### **3. GLOBAL GIFT - SHANTI KUTIR PROGRAMME**

Funded by TROCAIRE, the scheme has been implemented in Mohana Block. This is a one time programme. Till the end of March 2009, 140 families were provided with assistance for making houses. During the year 2009-10, assistance was given to 40 families from among the poorest of the poor identified by the VDCs. By 31<sup>st</sup> March 2010, 90 % of the families had completed work. Two important points to be noted here are that major contributions for making the houses were made by the beneficiaries and the efficiency of the VDCs in motivating the beneficiaries and rendering wholehearted support right from the selection of beneficiaries to the completion of their house. Each family helped the other, because the families identified were from among the poorest of the poor and no single family had the resources to complete the house on his/her own. They arranged beams, purlins, rafters etc, they laid required number of bricks through group action, they did the work of labourers without wages and so on. While the expenditure incurred per unit was above Rs 30,000 per unit, the assistance given was a paltry sum of around Rs 12,000 by way of GCI sheet, doors and windows per family. The VDC deserve commendations for their selfless service.



#### 4. SYSTEM OF RICE INTENSIFICATION

We are working in 9 GPs of Mohana Block in Gajapati district where the inhabitants are predominantly Adivasis. The benefits of the poverty eradication programmes and the social welfare schemes launched by the Union and State Governments do not reach them on expected lines. Media reports say that about 75 % of the money allotted for their welfare through development work are siphoned off. According to a recent study, 27% of Orissa's population are living below the poverty line even now in Orissa. If this figure is correct, then the percentage of the people in the disadvantaged sections of the society living below the poverty line is certainly more. Many of them are deprived of the basic necessities of life. First and foremost problem faced by them is the scarcity of food. Every body, according to the constitution of India, has a right to food, but the Government food security policy has not made it possible.

The organization was deeply moved by the pathetic conditions of the tribal people in which they live. With great determination it made a firm resolve to take some concrete steps that could reduce scarcity of food and poverty through development of agriculture and allied activities.

It introduced cultivation of paddy and ragi under SRI process in 2008-09. The benefits accrued there from were heartening. The following advantaged convinced them beyond doubt that the system would greatly benefit them:

\*Small landholdings of tribal farmers situated in the hilly terrains are suitable for SRI process.

\*The cost on in-puts was comparatively low.

\*The in-puts are arranged by the organization for them

\*The organization has trained staff to render them technical guidance.

\*The yield of paddy was more than three times than what they were getting before.

\*The farmers had raised two crops in a year.

Many farmers came forward and enlisted their names. It was therefore continued in 2009-10. Since the yield of paddy under SRI was more than three times than that of the conventional system, there was no problem in identification of farmers. A target of 100 Ac was fixed to be covered involving 150 beneficiaries in 35 villages.

Without loss of time, the field staff started identification of beneficiaries, made arrangements for their training and agricultural operation was stated in time. Right from the stage field preparations to the harvesting of crop, the field staff guided the farmers. All the required inputs were made available to them in time.

The farmers were motivated to use organic manure by sensitizing them about the advantages of organic manure vis-à-vis the dangerous effects of chemical fertilizers and pesticides. They were told that it was cost effective since they have animals to supply dung, and dry leaves, waste straw and sticks required for compost making are available in plenty and free technical guidance is also available. The response received positive response.

### **Support from Government offices**

Good rapport having been established with Government offices at the block level, the farmers could get mandwa weeders, seeds for green manure, paddy seeds, bio-fertilizer at subsidized rates. The Agriculture officer provided assistance for demonstration plots. Block office agreed to provide assistance for creation of awareness.

The entire process of cultivation of the paddy crop as per SRI was carried out successfully under the direct guidance of SACAL staff. The yield of paddy per acre was 15 to 45 Qtl per acre, depending upon the care taken by the farmers. There was also income from the sale of vegetables. The farmers were happy that their labour was fruitful and more so that the paddy merchants were ready to purchase their surplus paddy on outright payment at their doorsteps.

### **Impact**

The high yield of paddy which worked out to three times more than that of the conventional system, inspired other farmers to take up SRI system. Even the farmers of other villages who had no knowledge of SRI made bee lines to know the truth about the real achievements from the farmers who had cultivated paddy under SRI system. They also decided to adopt SRI system.

The practical use of organic manure made by the farmers in the SRI process proved to their satisfaction that its efficacy is in no way less than the chemical fertilizer. They decided to use the former alongwith vermin compost.

It solved the food shortage problem of the farmers and their income also increased. The farmers' families consumed vegetables produced from their fields and they got nutritional supplements from it. The sale of surplus vegetables also enhanced their income.

## **5. RAIN WATER MANAGEMENT: PHASE- I.**

The implementation of the project was started in the year 2009-10 at Jhatikasahi and Padmapur villages under Malaspadar GP of Mohana Block. The focus is on development of agriculture to increase food production for secure livelihood.

Six percolation tanks and 6 dug wells have been sunk at Padmapur. Graded contour bund, secondary bund and field bund have been done. These facilities have helped farmers in raising two crops in the first year in both up and low lands. It could make possible for the farmers to take vegetable cultivation and other crops as well through out the year. After the completion of the project, the farmers could raise three crops a year.

Senior Programme Officer, SDTT, Mr Biswanath Sinha, had a paid a visit to the field and expressed his satisfaction at the work done. He was pleased to sanction funds for completion of the project at Padmapur.

We have already mentioned earlier, that we apply awareness creation and motivation to make people think, feel and accept the proposition. So, to create confidence in the minds of the people that the project is in their interest and that it will change their living conditions, we organized an exposure visit in a bigger way. The visit was to Keonjhar and Bolangir districts where the scheme has been successfully implemented. The visiting team consisted of staff members, panchayat members and panchayat samiti chairman. They had a dialogue with the beneficiaries of the project implemented in those two districts. They saw with their own eyes the benefits availed of by the farmers through the implementation of the project. They were very much impressed.

The exposure visit was followed by a block level workshop held at Mohana on 19.12.2009 to sensitize the people and the government functionaries about the advantages of the project.

The BDO, Sarpanches concerned, Engineers of the Block office and the villagers had attended the workshop. A thorough discussion was held on the subject matter. All queries of the participants were answered satisfactorily and all doubts were cleared from their minds.

### **Water Harvesting structure**

For sustainable agricultural practices, water is very essential. So, in addition to the implementation of rain water management, community tank project management, diversion based irrigation system, support was also given for making a water harvesting structure at Ghaibali in Chandiput GP. The organization had provided funds for the purpose. The work was executed by the VDC. The work has been completed. It is supplying water to 25 Ac of land.

## 6. ORISSA COMMUNITY TANK MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME (OCTMP)

This is a World Bank aided project. The Water Resources Department of the Government of Orissa is implementing the programme. At the district level the project director, OCTDMS, Berhampur is monitoring the programme.

Its main aim is to improve the performance of tank systems through partnership and collaboration between the implementing agency and the Pani Panchayat. The focus of the programme is the land and water resources management for sustainable production. The Pani Panchayat of a village is the cornerstone around which the entire exercise of tank management will be undertaken.

The following 7 villages in Patrapur Block of Ganjam district, each of which has a tank, have been identified for implementation of the programme.

- |    |                    |                      |
|----|--------------------|----------------------|
| 1. | Gothagaon          | Belmabandha pond     |
| 2. | Amundi             | Keshpur Banha        |
| 3. | Sarathi Charan Pur | Raj Ghai             |
| 4. | Mohulpada          | Niladrichandra Sagar |
| 5. | Desai              | Khandia Bandha       |
| 6. | Khamarigaon        | Gopinath Ghai        |
| 7. | Sri Rampur         | Sarathi Sagar        |

The role of this organisation is to strengthen the Pani Panchayats so that they could be able to discharge their responsibilities smoothly. Besides, its role also extends to creating awareness among farmers about cattle care, income generation activities, smooth functioning of SHGs etc.

This is an on-going programme. The organization was involved in the programme in 2008-09. The following were the achievements for the year 2009-10.

- i. Fourteen SHGs had been formed in 7 villages.
- ii. An exposure visit was organized on 23.3.2010. Twelve farmers were taken to Kausalyagang in Puri district. They saw fish farming undertaken there scientifically and improved method of vegetable cultivation. They had a dialogue with the farmers.

- iii. Three cattle health care camps were organized at Gothagaon, Mahulpara and Desari on 12.2.2010, 10.3.2010, 12.3.2010 respectively. All the cattle of the four villages were vaccinated.
- iv. Two agricultural training camps were held at Mahulpada and Gothagaon 9.12.2009 and 18.12.2009 respectively. Forty farmers were trained in SRI system of paddy cultivation.
- v. Three women from two villages, namely, Desai and Mahulpada, were sent to Central Poultry Farm at Bhubaneswar for 3-day training in poultry vaccination from 22.2.2010 to 27.2.2010.
- vi. Demonstrations were conducted on integrated crop management at Sarathi Charan Pur and Gothagaon in July 2009.
- vii. Two training camps on poultry farming were held at Mahulpada and Desai on 18.2.2010 and 24.2.2010 respectively. Four persons were selected to start poultry farming.
- viii. Civil work to bring improvement to the existing ponds - Belma Bandha at Gotha Gaon and Raj Ghai at Sarathi Charan Pur was started in March 2010. The civil engineer of this organization supervised the work-in progress.
- ix. Three master farmers were trained at OUAT on SRI from 26.3.2010 to 31.3.2010.

## **7. DIVERSION BASED IRRIGATION PROJECT 2009-10.**

The project is funded by SDTT through AFPRO. Latter is the Monitoring Agency.

The activity has been undertaken at village B Raising under Karchabadi GP of Mohana Block. The command area comprises 31 Ac of land belonging to 28 farmers. The aim is to provide assured supply of water for irrigation purpose to raise more crops.

Present Status:

Four chambers have been constructed at four places from where water is supplied through 4" dia plastic pipes to the crop fields based on gravity flow system. All the 31 Ac land in the command area got water whenever required for cultivation of paddy. 12 farmers have taken up paddy cultivation under SRI. The villagers get piped water supply facility through the gravity flow system. Water users committee has been formed to look after the management and maintenance of the system.

## 8. NATIONAL ENVIRONMENT AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

This is a national programme to protect environment from pollution. The Director, Centre for Environment Studies, is implementing and monitoring the programme in the State. On the request of the implementing agency, this organization involved itself in the awareness campaign, as per a bilateral agreement executed on 10.2.2010 between the implementing agency and this organization as the obligor.

An awareness campaign was held at Kaliapata village of Chandiput GP On 22.2.2010.

In the morning, a rally was organized. Students and teachers of the local primary school and members of SHGs took part in the rally. The participants, holding placards for keeping the surroundings clean, and giving slogans marched on the streets. It was followed by community work by which:

- a. the participants and the villagers cleaned the village surroundings ;
- b. the embankments and the surroundings of the village pond were cleaned ;
- c. there was water logging and a heap of waste materials near a tube well – that too was cleaned ;
- d. A vermin compost pit was made.

In the afternoon, a workshop on climate change was held. It was attended by the forester, headmaster of the UP School, the secretary and the project coordinator of SACAL and the villagers. The topic of discussion was cause and effect of climate change. The speakers spoke in simple language to drive home the importance of protecting the environment from pollution to the people.

### **Impact:**

After the rally and the workshop was organized, the people understand how important it is to keep the environment free from pollution. They are the cleaning the village surroundings once a week.



## 9. TUBERCULOSIS ERADICATION PROGRAMME:

The International Union against TB and lungs disease is working in the State, in collaboration with the State Government, for eradication of tuberculosis. The expenditure is met from Global Funds for AIDS, TB and Malaria. The said organization sought our cooperation and involvement in the TB eradication programme and our response was positive. Our staff worked in 16 GPs of Mohana Block in Gajpati district in the awareness campaign, motivation for proper treatment, taking of medicines regularly, as per the physician's advice, referring of suspected cases to the referral hospital for clinical check-up and treatment.

During the year 2009-10, the staff of this organization had organized 83 awareness camps in the 16 GPs identified for the purpose. They explained to the people the serious consequences in the event of failure in starting treatment in time, neglect in regular taking of medicines till the patient is completely cured of the disease, discontinuance of medicines mid-way, etc.

Our staff had identified 85 suspected cases and referred them to the nearby Government Hospitals. Clinical check-up confirmed 25 cases positive. They were supplied with medicines free of cost and were advised to report themselves to the doctor at regular intervals for check-up. Our staff used to keep an eye on the patients to ensure regular taking of medicines.

Counseling was done to tell the patients to continue taking of medicines regularly. Thirty five patients who had discontinued medicines, restarted taking of medicines regularly.



**SOCIAL ACTION FOR COMMUNITY ALTERNATIVE LEARNING (SACAL)  
NILACHAL NAGAR, P.O. BERHAMPUR, DISTRICT GANJAM, ORISSA.**

**ANNUAL ACTIVITY REPORT -2008-09.**

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

SACAL has been working in the districts of Gajpati and Ganjam from the year 2000 for the development of the poor in general and for the disadvantaged sections of the society in particular. Currently it is working in 91 villages..

The details are as follows:

District	Name of Block	No. of villages	No. of households	Population SC ST others	Total
Gajpati	1.Moohana	1.Baghmari 2.Chandiput 3.Dhadiambi 4.Karachbadi 5.Malaspadar	75 villages		
Ganjam	2.Patrapur	7 PaniPanchayats	7 villages	1049	4907

During the reporting period, the following activities were implemented.

1. Strengthening of Civil Society Organisations/People's Organisations
2. Orissa Community Tank Management Programme
3. System of Rice Intensification
4. Global Gift Programme
5. Income Generation Activities

SACAL believes that involvement of community in the process of development and creation of awareness among the people in an effectual manner are the two positive ways of achieving success in the implementation of any developmental programme in remote tribal villages. The organization, therefore, laid emphasis on strengthening the community based organizations, namely, the Village Development Committee (VDC) and the Panchayat Development Committee

(PDC) to accomplish its objectives. The outcome was positive. Effective steps were taken to make the awareness campaigns successful.

The villages in the operational area of the organization are inhabited, mostly, by Adivasis. Many people in the operational area go hungry for want of food. The organization, therefore, gave priority to increasing food production by scientific method of cultivation. It introduced System of Rice Intensification which required timely supply of water to the fields at the time of need. That was taken care of by taking up allied activities. Diversion based irrigation system and rain water management system were put in place to ensure supply of water.. The yield from SRI was more than double than that of the conventional system.

Besides the above, other activities, as have been named above, were also taken up details of which have been given in the activity-wise narrative report.

As regards awareness our approach was like this.:

People think, feel and do. What people think would be related to what they feel and do. This would mean increasing one's knowledge or changing one's belief about development would lead to desired changes in one's related attitude and behaviour. we took up the awareness campaign vigorously to make people think about what we say which in turn led them to feel that what we are saying is for their good and then they did what they were asked to do.

During the year 2008-09, we have been partially successful. We have made a good beginning Hopefully, the achievements will be significant in the years to follow. We have a long way to go We hope by dint of hard labour we could be able to achieve all that we are working for in a time bound manner.

On behalf of the organization, I express my deep gratitude to the funding agencies, officers and the staff of the Government Departments concerned, for their cooperation and support.

I sincerely hope the contents of this report will meet the requirements of the stakeholders.

Nagendra K Nandi  
Secretary.

## STRENGTHENING OF CIVIL SOCIETIES/ PEOPLE'S ORGANISATIONS

We have a two-tier system in the formation and strengthening of people's organisations, namely, 1. Village Development Committee and 2. Panchayat Development Committee.

**VDC:** Each of the villages where we work in has a committee known as the Village Development Committee, consisting of 5-7 members, depending on the number of households in the village. The members are elected, democratically, by the villagers. The office bearers, namely, the president and the secretary are elected by the members of the committee. Seats have been reserved for SC, ST and women members. The committee members hold office for a period of two years.

The VDC is the apex body at the village level to coordinate different activities and actors in the matter of village development. It monitors the activities of different village level functionaries /institutions like VEC, SHG etc. It establishes linkage with the line departments of the Government, institutions and PDCs.

### **Important Functions of VDC**

- a. To ensure smooth implementation of activities undertaken in the village ;
- b. To oversee the functioning of SHG, VEC, and other similar bodies ;
- c. To prepare micro plan for the development of the village and to see that it gets through at the Panchayat in order that government funds are sanctioned for execution of developmental work in the village ;
- d.. To take measures to keep the village environment free of pollution ;
- e. To settle petty disputes between families and within the family ;
- f. To ensure participation of the villagers in Panchayat and Gram Sabha .

**PDC:** At the Panchayat level there is a committee known as the Panchayat Development Committee. The office bearers, namely, the president and the secretary of all the VDCs situated within the jurisdiction of the panchayat are its members. The president and the secretary of the PDC are democratically elected by its members. Each PDC has SC, ST and woman members. The tenure of the committee is two years. THE PDCs shall hold meetings as often as may be required, but thirty days shall not elapse without holding even a single meeting.

### **Important Functions of the PDC are:**

- a. Ensure smooth functioning of VDCs and other village level bodies ;
- b. Coordinate activities of VECs in the matters relating to village development ;
- c. Establish linkages with the offices of line departments, members of PRIs and panchayat level institutions to expedite action ;
- d. To be watchful to maintenance of communal harmony, peace and tranquility ;
- e. To settle minor inter-village disputes relating to land and family matters.
- f. \To coordinate and organize health camp, awareness camp, training camp at the panchayat level ;
- g. To organize training camps for development of leadership and personalit;

During the year 2008-09, a leadership training camp for the PDC members was organised at Chandragiri on 21.3.2009, hosted by the PDC Chandragiri in Mohana Block. The purpose was to strengthen communal harmony among the people of different religions. Fifty seven members - twenty five men and twenty seven women had attended the meet. Mr R.P. Padhi from the Central Board of Workers Education had graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. In his address to the participants he spoke on the importance of unity in diversity with emphasis on communal harmony. He advised the participants to spread the message of love and peace. Another point, the Chief Guest, drove home to the participants was to tell people not to hate or ill treat people of religions other their own.

### **IMPACT**

a. The participants were greatly impressed by the speech. They resolved that the message of love and peace should be conveyed to the people in the next VDC meetings. True to their word, they explained in length the importance of communal harmony to the people in the next VDC meetings in their villages.

b. Chandragiri and other parts of Mohana Block are prone to religion related violences. Peace and tranquility are often disturbed by fundamentalists. A discourse on communal harmony was greatly called

for to preserve the secular credentials of the country. The event organized was very successful.

c. The PDC members resolved nine disputes of small causes during the year.

d. The PDC at Chandragiri held a meeting on 29.3.2009 to review issue of land certificates under FRI. The review revealed that out of 1120 households, only 953 had applied for land under FRI and out of that only 30 families had received land certificates. The eligible families who had not applied in the prescribed form were advised to apply afresh in the proper form. The PDC decided to pursue the matter at the appropriate level.

e. Awareness camps were held at different places to maintain harmony for peaceful coexistence. Here are the details:

Name of Block	Name of village	Date on which camp held	Participants. Men / Women	Total
Mohana	Brahmandevi	21.3.2009	21 26	47
Do	Kusumpur	24.4.2009	19 27	46
Do	Govindpur	25.3.2009	23 25	48

It was noticed that the participants realised the need for explaining the people to respect communal harmony for peaceful coexistence and stated that they would take the message to the people.

f. **Workshop for monitoring progress of on-going activities.**

A workshop was held at Chandragiri on 15.2.2009 to explain to the PDC members the need to review the progress in respect of the on-going activities on regular basis. Twenty eight representatives from different PDCs had participated. Sri Nagendra K Nandi, secretary, was the resource person.

The secretary explained to the gathering that to meet the deadline for successful implementation of a project regular monitoring was essential. It is important to monitor the progress made every month in respect of the programmes and activities undertaken at the panchayat and village levels failing which targets cannot be achieved in time. Secondly, regular review will also help in sorting out problems. It was decided that review meetings shall be held by the VDCs on the 10<sup>th</sup> and by the PDCs on the 15<sup>th</sup> of every month. They are adhering to the date line. The achievements made as a result of the review are as follows:

Proposals for execution of development work as per the village action plan were cleared by Palli Sabhas, but there was delay in sanction of funds and execution of work. The PDC members pursued the matter at the GP and Block levels. Due to their efforts funds were sanctioned and execution of work was carried out.

- i. Roads were constructed in 8 villages at a cost of Rs52,00,000/-
- ii. Six ponds were dug in 6 villages at a cost of Rs 12,50,000/-
- iii. Two check dams were completed at two villages at a cost of Rs 7,00,000/-
- iv. A structure for gravity flow of water was erected at a cost of Rs 200,000/-
- v. School buildings were completed in 8 villages at a cost of 25,50,000/-
- vi. Land pattas were issued to 83 farmers of 8 villages.
- vii. Job cards were issued 185 persons under NRWGS.
- viii. Household pattas were issued to 21 families who were homeless.
- ix. Kisan Cards were issued to 170 families.
- x. Funds were sanctioned for construction of 4 community halls in 4 villages at a cost of Rs 6,50,000/-.

g. **Development of women**

Brahmandevi PDC had organized a convention of women at Chaptipanka on 5.3.2009. Women numbering 252 from 3 GPs, most of whom were SHG members, had participated in it. Its aim was to bring solidarity among men and to teach them how to articulate while making demands for equal wages, equal right in the decision making process with men etc.. The AGM, NABARD, was kind enough to grace the occasion by his kind presence. Prizes were

awarded to 4 best performing SHGs, and two women for the leadership quality they showed in the convention.

The participants learnt from the convention, " United, we stand; divided, we fall" They worked out strategies to maintain their unity and solidarity and to address issues related to women and girl children. They also understood who to contact in matters related to health, education, NREGS, PDS etc. Women members of the PDC and VDC are now approaching the BDO, the medical officer and other local officers to get their grievances redressed.

h. **Capacity Building**

The strengthening of village based institutions helped in capacity building. The VDC, Ghaibali, successfully executed a civil work. The VDC was able to construct a Water Harvesting Structure at Ghaibali under Chandiput GP.

**Workshop on gender development.**

Women in rural areas are still a harassed lot. Discrimination still continues. They are not free to stay out late for safety reasons. They are ignorant of the laws that have guaranteed them equal rights with men. Chandragiri PDC had organized a workshop to create awareness among women about gender equality at Chandragiri on 30.3.2009.

Sri Padmanav Arukh, ex-programme. manager of Gram Vikas, addressed the gathering at the workshop. He spoke about the equal rights of sons and daughters over the parents' properties, provisions under payment of Wages Act, Dowry Prohibition Act, legal provisions relating to prevention of atrocities against women and crimes against women etc. He asked the participants to take advantage of the facilities and not to become mute spectators to the crimes perpetrated on the innocent women. He advised them to be bold enough to bring the perpetrators of crimes to justice. He spoke about the free legal service available for the poor and extra facilities available particularly for the women. He advised the audience not to neglect at all in the matter of educating their daughters.



It was noticed that the workshop had its impact. Enrollment of girls in schools increased ; attendance of girl children in schools was found to be regular than ever before.

**h. Workshop on NREGS**

A workshop was held on 28.2.2009 at Chandragiri to explain to the PDC members the provisions of NREG Act. Sri B. R. Das, a member of the Governing Board of SACAL, had attended the workshop to deliver a talk on the subject. Addressed the gathering, he said that NREGS is a law that guarantees 100 days work to wage earners who are willing to work. Job cards are issued to the persons who want employment under the Act. It further provides that if the Government could not provide job for hundred days to a job card holder, the officer concerned shall pay his/her wages. Many of the wage earners had no knowledge of the law that has come into force. The participants made queries about the Act and their queries were answered and doubts cleared.

**i. Training organized by VDCs**

During the reporting period, training was imparted by VDCs, on different subjects for generating extra income. Beneficiaries were sent to different places on exposure visits. The following table has the details:

Place of trg.	Date	Nr. Trained	Trade	Trainer	Outcome
1.Malaspadar	22-23.2.09	22 landless and marginal farmers - 13men,9 women.	Grafting	Mr BKSahu of Horti.Dept	9 of them doing grafting work
2 B.Raising	22-23.2.2009	8(5men3women) All agr. labourers	Bee-kpg.	A farmer of R. Udayagir	Bee boxes supplied to all free

				i	of cost. They have started collecting honey
3Chandragiri	5-91.2009	10(7men 3women)	Street play(drama)	Mr Samal from TEAM	Performed 7 streetplays - awareness AIDS/HIV

#### **j. Exposure visit**

There are three PDCs in Mohana Block of Gajpati district. All the three PDCs had jointly organized an exposure visit for the farmers involved in SRI. Twenty eight farmers from different villages had gone to Ganjam to see for themselves the various stages of growth of paddy under SRI system of cultivation. They had a dialogue with the SRI farmers there and got firsthand knowledge from their experience. They had the opportunity to meet Mr Norman Uphof an American Agricultural Researcher there who explained to them in detail the underlying idea of SRI technology at the UAA. campus. The farmers of Ganjam spoke to the visiting farmers the benefits they have derived from SRI system of cultivation. The visiting farmers were inspired. They have decided to take up paddy cultivation under SRI system vigorously.

#### **IMPACT OF STRENGTHENING OF VDCS.**

The VDCs are preparing micro plans for their villages basing on which they dand funds from the Government for the development of their villages. The members of the committee liaise with panchayat level and block level functionaries in matters relating to sanction and release of funds for the development work. The table below will show that the VDCs have done a commendable job in this regard.

Name of village	Name of GP	Amount	Rs	purpose
1.Dungrigaon	Karchabadi	1,70,000		Construction of road
2.Guptiona	Do	3,20,000		Do
3Gudripada	Do	3,00,00		Do
4Landaguda	Chaandiput	1,50,000		Do
5.Ghaibali	Do	3,20,000		Do
6.Dhanupata	Dhadiambo	2,00,000		Do
7Dimrijali	Do	1,70,000		Do

## 2. ORISSA COMMUNITY TANK MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME

The Government of Orissa, in partnership with the Government of India, is implementing the captioned programme in Patrapur Block of Ganjam district, under direct control and supervision of the District Project Director, OCTMP, Ganjam. The project aims at improving the agricultural productivity by repairing and renovating and providing structures for flow of surplus water for irrigation purpose from the existing ponds. The OCTMS has selected the following 4 tanks in Patrapur Block for repairs and renovations.

1. Balam Bandha at Gothagaon
2. Keshpur Bandha at Amundi
3. Rajghai at Sarathi Charan Pur
4. Bogi weir at Surangi

The project also provides for development of human resources, formation and strengthening of local institutions, livelihood support services to tank system users.

An MOU has been signed between the project Director, OCTMS, Ganjam, and the Secretary of the organization (SACAL) under which SACAL is obliged to render support services to the OCTMS to accomplish the above objectives.

The MOU was signed in February 2009 and work was started in March 2009.

Thus, there was not much time left during the 2008-09 fiscal to undertake any major activity. The only work done during the closing part of the year was that three awareness camps were organized in March 2009 to motivate people to have their cattle and poultry vaccinated.

### **3. SYSTEM OF RICE INTENSIFICATION**

Gajapati district in Orissa is a tribal district. The destructive activities of Maoists in a sizeable portion of the district has posed a menacing problem. All-out efforts made by the Government to curb their unlawful activities have been of little avail.

Most of the tribal people are victims of abject poverty. Many of them are not aware of the various welfare schemes launched by the Government, due to illiteracy and ignorance. They are unable to avail themselves of the benefits of the welfare schemes. Scarcity of food is a great problem faced by them. Many of them do not get two square meals a day.

SACAL is working in some tribal concentration pockets of Mohana Block under this district. The organization was deeply moved by the pathetic conditions of the tribal people in which they live. In a staff meeting, they pondered over the matter as to what could be done to increase food production that will pave the way for food security.

After much contemplation and deep thought, the organisation decided to introduce SRI process of paddy cultivation, taking into consideration the following factors:

Their experience has proved beyond doubt that yield of paddy under SRI was much more than that of the conventional system of paddy cultivation.

Small landholdings of tribal farmers situated in the hilly terrains are suitable for SRI process.

The cost on in-puts was comparatively low.

The organization has trained staff to render technical guidance to the farmers.

They made a firm resolve to achieve the following objectives :

- a. To create awareness among the adivasis that there are ways and means to increase the yield of paddy to provide food security with lower cost on inputs;
- b. To motivate the farmers for use of organic manure by sensitizing them about the advantages of organic manure vis-à-vis the dangerous effects of chemical fertilizers and pesticides ;
- c. The farmers have animals, and they are collecting dung. Green leaves, dry leaves, waste straw and sticks are available in plenty to be used for organic manure. What is needed is guidance to make compost tanks and the process of making compost.
- d. Four hundred farmers from 25 villages of Malaspadar GP will be involved in this activity by 2011.
- e. To motivate, guide and render technical guidance in the direction of vegetable production to supplement nutrition and generate additional income.

#### **Follow-up Action to ensure achievement of objectives**

Four animators, one coordinator, one agricultural officer, one accountant and one office assistant were immediately recruited to go ahead with the preliminary work to ensure achievement of the objectives.

After proper training, the animators were deployed in survey work with strict instructions to fill in the format with correct data and complete the job in time.

Other staff members earmarked for the project were suitably trained. The responsibility of each of the staff members was made clear. The area was divided into two clusters with headquarters at Lembapanka and Jamling and staff members put in position to carry on their respective work.

The following table has the information about follow up action on other points taken to ensure accomplishment of the objectives set forth in the agenda:

Krushak Sangh	Training/ exposure visit	Nr. Of farmers Identified	Coverage in acre	Compost pits
Sangh formed in 15 villages	Trg.imparted to farmers and VDC members. 60 farmers sent on expo.visit to see demo.plots at UAA and Sambhab.	For kharif-44 For Rabi - 40	Ac.19 Ac18	10 vermicompost units completed. 30 farmers completed compost pits. 54 farmers made liquid manure and pesticides. Q.2.40 sown in field for green manuring.

### **Support from Government offices**

Good rapport having been established with Government offices at the block level,

The farmers could get mandwa weeders, seeds for green manure, paddy seeds, bio fertilizer at subsidized rates. The Agriculture officer provided assistance for 6 demonstration plots. Block office agreed to provide assistance for creation of awareness.

The whole process of cultivation of the first paddy crop as per SRI was carried out successfully under the direct guidance of SACAL staff. The yield of paddy per acre was 15 qtl+. There was also income from the sale of vegetables. The farmers were happy that their labour was fruitful and

more so that the paddy merchants were ready to purchase their surplus paddy on outright payment at their doorsteps.

## **IMPACT**

Encouraged and inspired by the great achievement, the farmers thought of other ways and means to generate additional income through agriculture. In that area, some farmers are producing scented rice used for making delicacies on festive occasions. The name of that scented rice is Kalazira. One of the farmers had cultivated that variety of paddy on a small plot of land on trial basis. Keeping a small quantity of that rice for family's consumption, he sold the rest of the rice in one kg packs @ Rs40/-per packet. Calculating a big margin of profit in the sale of this variety, other farmers decided they too would cultivate this paddy. But as the yield of this variety was less, and that it was not to be used for daily consumption, they decided that they would cultivate this variety of paddy in one fourth of the total land they own and in the remaining three fourths they would cultivate high yielding variety of paddy like SRI.

## **Importance of organic manure**

The practical use of organic manure made by them in the SRI process proved to their satisfaction that its efficacy is in no way less than the chemical fertilizer, they decided to use the former alongwith vermin compost.

## **A success story.**

Situated at a distance of about 1.5 km from the Block Head-quarters, Mohana in the district of Gajpati, is a village named Landaguda, where 21 families live. It is surrounded by forest and hills. The inhabitants are tribal

kuis of ST community. They depend on minor forest produce for their livelihood. The quantity of minor forest produce on which they depend for their livelihood is getting drastically reduced every year due to deforestation and degradation of forest. Yield from their fields is also getting reduced due to depletion of forest, causing loss of soil fertility. Scope for employment opportunities in a tiny remote village is very much limited.

One Sri Srinath Malika is a resident of this village. He owns just 2 ac. of land. His family consists of 6 members – Srinath, his wife, widowed mother, a daughter and two sons. He used to cultivate paddy, raggy and bajra in his land, but the yield was too inadequate to provide food to the whole family. One can easily imagine his difficulties. He was greatly worried as to what he should do to provide saucer to the family members.

SACAL, an NGO, working in the area had established good rapport with the people of the villages in their operational area. The people had reposed great faith in them. The field staff of SACAL one day visited the village and explained to the villagers the benefits that will accrue from cultivation of paddy under SRI system. Srinath was present at the meeting. He was greatly convinced and was determined to cultivate paddy under SRI system in 1 ac of land out of his total land of 2 ac. He started agricultural operations, viz, preparation of nursery bed, sowing paddy seeds with proper treatment, transplanted 10-day old seedlings, and other odd jobs strictly as per the SRI procedure. In course of time, the crop became ready for harvest. Even you and I will be surprised to know that the yield of paddy was 29 qtl. from one acre of land.

He saved his family from food scarcity. It was an eye-opener to other farmers of the village. More farmers followed in his footsteps. The quantum of acreage covered on account of the impact of SRI and the yield will be reflected in the next report.



#### 4. GLOBAL GIFT PROGRAMME

Adivasi families in remote tribal villages live in thatched roof, mud floor houses and in pitiable unhygienic conditions for poverty reasons. In 2007-08 SACAL started implementing the Global Gift Programme to support poor Adivasis from among the 'poorest of the poor' to bring about improvement in their housing condition.

This is the second year of the implementation of the programme. The organization is implementing the programme in the name and style of Shanti Kutir Programme. The modus operandi is like this :

It has already been stated earlier in this report that village based institutions (VDCs) and Panchayat Level institutions (PDCs) are already in place to look after the development of villages and panchayats. In this case, the PDCs, in consultation with VDCs, identify beneficiaries, prepare lists of beneficiaries (village-wise) to be supported and send the same with their recommendations to this office. The terms and conditions of support stipulate that:

the plinth area of a house shall not be less than 250 sq. ft ;  
the house shall have GCI sheet roof and at least one window ;  
the civil work shall be completed within the dead line ;  
the organization's support is limited to Rs 12000/- per housing unit payable to the beneficiary based on the recommendation of the PDC, subject to the fulfillment of norms, terms and conditions.

To ensure that things go on smoothly, a bilateral agreement is executed between the VDCs and the beneficiaries, which bind them to follow the norms, terms and conditions. PDCs are obliged to monitor progress from time to time.

The target for 2008-09 was to support 50 families. The target was achieved. The following table has the details :

Name of GP	No. of villages	No. houses allotted	No. of house completed	
1.Karchabadi	24 in all the 3 GPs	1. 20	1. 20	
2.Chandipur		2. 20	2. 20	
3.Dhadiambo		3. 10	3. 10	

### Impact:

At the stage of construction of houses for the beneficiaries, the entire village community was involved. The houses could not have been constructed without the help of others, as the beneficiaries were from the poorest of the poor group, and some of them had no male members in the household. The feeling of belongingness and togetherness was exemplary. Both the givers of help and the recipients of help felt blessed. That inspired the committee members to work in a more dedicated manner for the community.

Only a few persons in a few villages, could avail themselves of the benefits of Shanti Kutir scheme, as the available resources were too meager to extend support to others who too were needy. But then they put their cases at the panchayat and Block office to provide funds to assist them under the IAY scheme. Mounting of pressure yielded some positive result.

The VDC members gained experience to undertake construction of civil work and to involve themselves directly in community work. This encouraged them to approach the concerned authorities for sanction of funds for development work in their respective villages under various schemes like NREGS.

## 5. INCOME GENERATION ACTIVITIES

While the SRI process of paddy cultivation aims at increasing the yield of paddy to provide food security and to enhance the level on income, it is not intended to be an end in itself, but it is planned to be followed by other activities to supplement extra income. With this end in view, a programme for generating additional income, namely, Income Generation Activity, has been launched, to creating a steady source of alternative employment and income.

Under this programme, women of villages have started Self Help Groups(SHG) to carry on trades of their choice depending upon their capacity. The underlying idea is to enhance the capacity of the village women and empower them. The organization extended its support in the formation of groups and in the matter of arranging Bank Loan and Government subsidy. Details in this regard are as follows:

Name of village	Name of GP	Amount of bank loan Rs	Purpose	How utilized
1.Landaguda	Chandiput	2,00,000	Construction of shed And purchase of goats	Purchased 73 goats Repayment of loan started
2.Kusumpur	Do	2,50,000	Do	Purchased 94 goats. Repayment of loan started
3.Dhanulata	Dhadiambo	2,50,000	Do	Purchased 78 goats

Sale of goats was not started during 2008-09. It will be started in 2009-10 and the details of business, such as, the number of goats sold, profit earned and repayment of loan etc will be reported in the report for 2009-10.

#### IMPACT

It has helped capacity building. After the groups were formed, its members approached banks and government offices for loan and subsidy. They went to different places to see goats of good breed, negotiated with the goat farmers in fixation of rate etc and bought goats of their choice.

They are managing the affairs themselves. The organisation's staff, however, guide them.

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## **FROM THE SECRETARY'S PEN**

### **FOOD SECURITY**

Scarcity of food in India is not a new phenomenon. It was there during British Rule; today also it is there. The irony of fate is that sixty three years after attaining independence, we hear of starvation deaths in free India which is primarily an agricultural country. It's because the food security policy of the Government is poorly managed. Admittedly, food security has been a major development objective since the start of planning. But why then people don't get food and we hear of starvation deaths ? Who to blame for the deteriorating levels of the people and the growing conditions of hunger, starvation and poverty ?

Let's think of our own State Orissa. According to a UNO study, in a list of 88 countries showing hunger index, India ranks 66<sup>th</sup>. So far as food shortage is concerned, Orissa, along with some other States, finds place in alarming category.

The State has the dubious distinction of being described as a backward State in terms of per capita income, literacy and any of the human development indices. It has also gained the most negative publicity for starvation deaths. Every year there is a hue and cry over starvation deaths in the Adivasi-dominated districts of Orissa. Whenever incidents of starvation deaths are reported, Orissa's Adivasis are in the news. Year after year, the reports of starvation deaths appear in the newspapers.

In most cases , the government of the day tries to cover up the issue by saying the deaths were due to food poisoning caused by eating mango kernels or some other traditional food or drink. It may be true that the Adivasis, who live in very primitive conditions, may not be able to maintain high standards of hygiene, but the question is why they are driven to eat mango kernel.

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Public memory is short lived and once the hullabaloo dies down, things are back to square one. Follow-up action is rarely, if ever, taken up. The real attention to addressing the basic issues behind the Adivasis' plight has been lacking ; ad -hocism has been the rule.

There is a need to have a close look at the general economic condition of the Adivasis. Long term programmes are needed for solving the problem of endemic poverty of Orissa Adivasis so that there are no more starvation deaths. Piecemeal efforts will not help.

Taking into consideration the problems of hunger, starvation, farmers' suicide etc, we have given topmost priority to development of agriculture and its allied activities. Our beneficiaries have been able to increase their yield of paddy through SRI process of cultivation ; by improving the irrigation system, there has been an increase in the yield of Rabi crops also. The coverage of area for cultivation of paddy under SRI process is increasing every year. Besides, the farmers are also growing Rabi crops. The facility of assured water supply from different water bodies, during off-monsoon months, has inspired the farmers to take up intensive farming. The farmers concede that they have been able to generate extra income.

The achievements may be small but they have brought the small farmers a ray of hope. They are confident that they could eradicate hunger from their villages.

Some people could say that the achievements made are "a drop to the ocean", and our answer to them is that " little drops of water make an ocean". There are many VOs in the field trying to address the issue. If each of them could make even a small contribution, that will go a long way in bringing a solution to the long standing problem.

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It is poor and poorly managed.. The Government gives all wrong reasons for not being able to address poverty, in so far as food is concerned. Food security has been a major development objective since the start of planning, but the indifferences of our policy makers towards the deteriorating levels of the people and the growing conditions of hunger and starvation are, indeed, appalling.

**A case in point:**

The Government at one point of time stated that it had the highest ever production of food grains ( about 235 milliond tons) in 2008-09. So much so that it had no storage facility to store half of it and it was rotting. In the same vein, the Government stated that the production was not enough to go for a universal system in the PDS.

Admittedly, there are many starving people in India ( confirmed by none other than the Supreme Court of India). While people are starving for want of food, millions of tones of grain are rotting in open yards, exposed to sun and rain. No one in power bothers to supply food grains to the starving people.

When the Supreme Court, expressing its displeasure at the mismanagement of the food security policy, directed the Government to give away the rotten grains to the poor, the latter filed an affidavit, in response, to say that it would sell the stock in open market. Just think for a moment the appalling insensitivity of selling the rotten wheat to traders at rock bottom prices, when there are admittedly lakhs of starving people in the country. It would, perhaps, be silly to expect a Government of this sensitivity to care a bit for our starving brethren.

The above incident reminds me of an important incident that had taken place in the 1960s. A shortage of food in the 1960s prompted Lal Bahadur Shastri, the then Prime Minister of India, to make an appeal to the people to forego food once a week. His genuine appeal received a positive response. There was no significant number of hungry people then as we have now, with lakhs of Indians going to bed without food. But alas ! we don't have personalities of Shastri's stature today.

Now the problem of poverty and hunger has increased many-fold in the last 5 decades. According to a UNO study, in a list of 88 countries showing hunger index, India ranks 66<sup>th</sup>. So far as food shortage is concerned, Orissa, along with some other States, finds place in alarming category, and in the tribal sub-plan areas the situation is grave.

The State has the dubious distinction of being described as a backward State in terms of per capita income, literacy and any of the human development indices. It has also gained the most negative publicity for starvation deaths..

Every year there is a hue and cry over starvation deaths in the Adivasi-dominated districts in Orissa. Gajapati district in Southern Orissa, is one among them. Whenever incidents of starvation deaths are reported, Orissa's Adivasis are in the news. Year after year, the reports of starvation deaths appear in the newspapers.

In most cases, the government of the day tries to cover up the issue by saying the deaths were due to food poisoning caused by eating mango kernels or some other traditional food or drink. It may be true that the Adivasis, who live in very primitive conditions, may not be able to maintain high standards of hygiene, but the question is why they are driven to eat mango kernel.

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Nagendra K Nandi  
Secretary.

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